

Raji language

Raji is a small Sino-Tibetan language of Nepal and Uttarakhand, India. Speakers were recently nomadic.

Distribution

Raji is spoken in the following areas of southwestern Nepal:^[1]

- Bheri Zone: Surkhet, Banke, and Bardiya districts
- Seti Zone: Kailali District
- Mahakali Zone: Kanchanpur District

It is also spoken by Raji people of Uttarakhand, India, primarily living in Pithoragarh district.

In Pithoragarh district, Rastogi (2015)^[3] reports that Raji is spoken in the hamlets of Kimkhola, Bhogtirua, Ganagaon, Chipaltara, Madanbori, Kutachaurani, Altodi, Jamtadi, Khirdwari and Chakarpur.

Dialects

Khatri (2008)^[4] divides Raji into 3 main regional dialects, for which he also provides word lists.

- **Barabandale**: spoken in Jyotinagar, Katasi, Lalbojhi, Kuti, Bhuruwa, Solta, Khairehi, and Keodi of Kailali District; Sundarpur, Bandevi Sibir, Daiji, krishanpur and Chela Sibir of Kanchanpur District; and Rajigaun, Galfa, and Babiyachaur of Surkhet District.
- **Purbiya**: Shankarpur, Machhagadh, Baniyabhar, Rambhapur, Dhakela, Dhadhawar, Sanoshree, Gulariya Municipality and Phanphena of Bardiya District.Also Speak in Chhinchu of Surkhet District.
- **Naukule** : Spoken in Jhil and Kuchaini of Chaumala, Shankarpur of Masuriya, Jarahi of Sadepani, Dhangaghi Municipality and Manera. All are located within Kailali District.

References

1. Raji (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/rji/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Raji" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/raji1240>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Rastogi, Kavita. 2015. Raji Orthography Development (<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/74h7j2p6>). *Himalayan Linguistics*, Vol. 14(2): 39–48. doi:10.5070/H914224947 (<https://doi.org/10.5070%2FH914224947>)
4. Khatri, Ramesh. 2008. *The structure of verbs and sentences of Raji*. MA thesis, Kirtipur: Tribhuvan University.

Raji	
Region	Nepal, India
Native speakers	3,800 (2011 census) ^[1]
Language family	Sino-Tibetan <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Raji–Raute <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Raji
Dialects	Barh Bandale <p>Naukule</p> <p>Purbiya</p>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	rji
Glottolog	raji1240 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/raji1240) ^[2]

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